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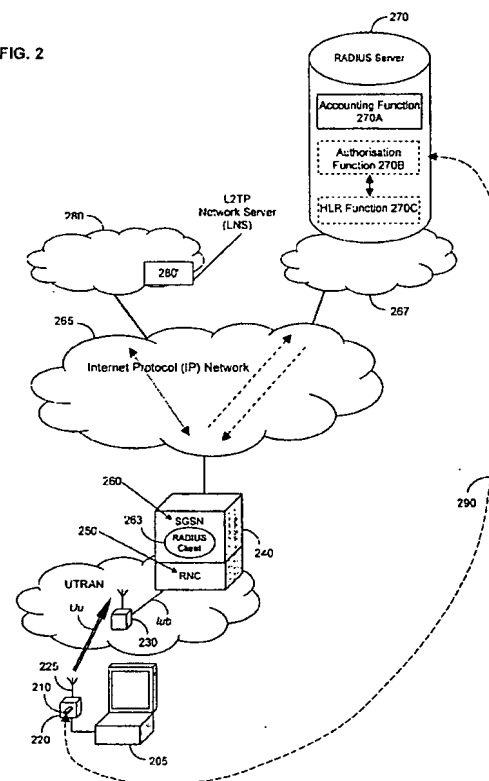
(56) Documents Cited:
GB 2369273 A WO 2002/011467 A

(58) Field of Search:
UK CL (Edition V) H4L
INT CL⁷ H04Q
Other: Online: WPI EPODOC PAJ

(54) Abstract Title: System and method for use of internet authentication technology to provide umts authentication of a usim in a radius server means

(57) System and method for use of internet authentication technology to provide UMTS authentication. An SGSN 260 in an Integrated Network Controller 240, in a UMTS network and a RADIUS server 270 are adapted to support signalling therebetween whereby authentication of a USIM is performed in the RADIUS Server. This allows a conventional Authorisation Centre (AuC) to be replaced by the RADIUS Server, and it is substantially cheaper, because it is based largely on existing off-the-shelf Internet access authentication technology, modified to this purpose.

FIG. 2



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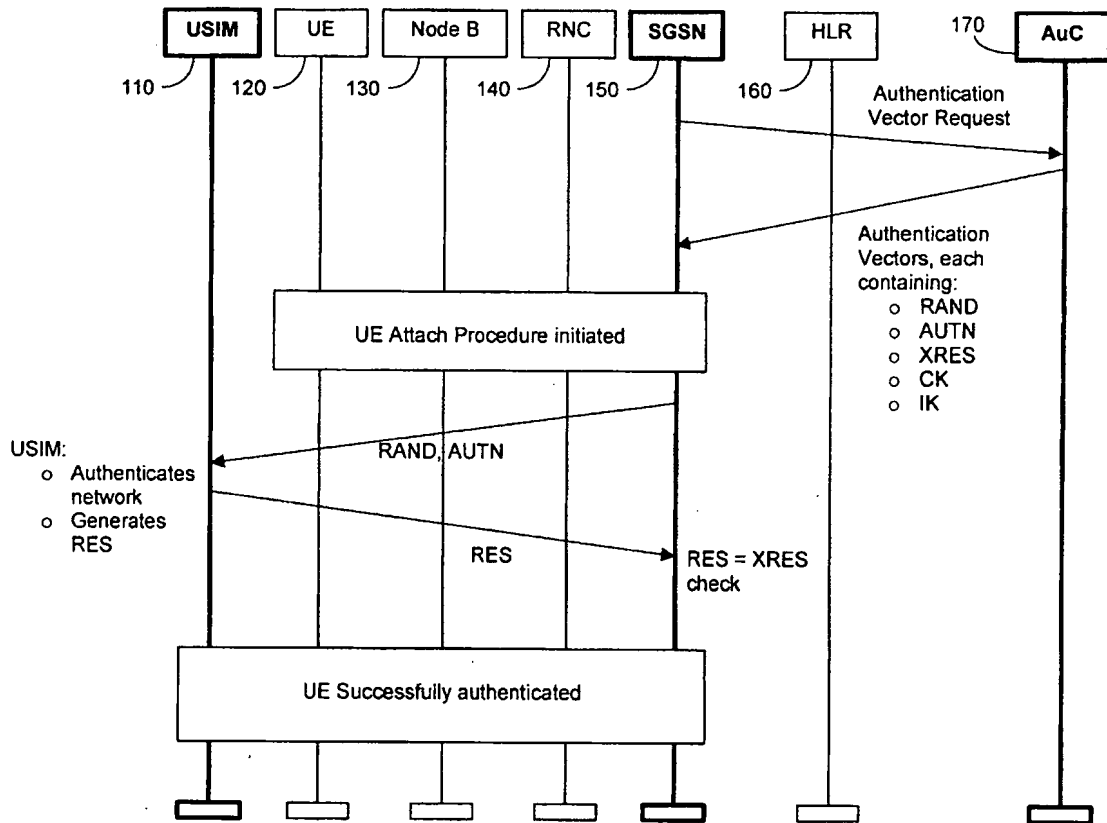
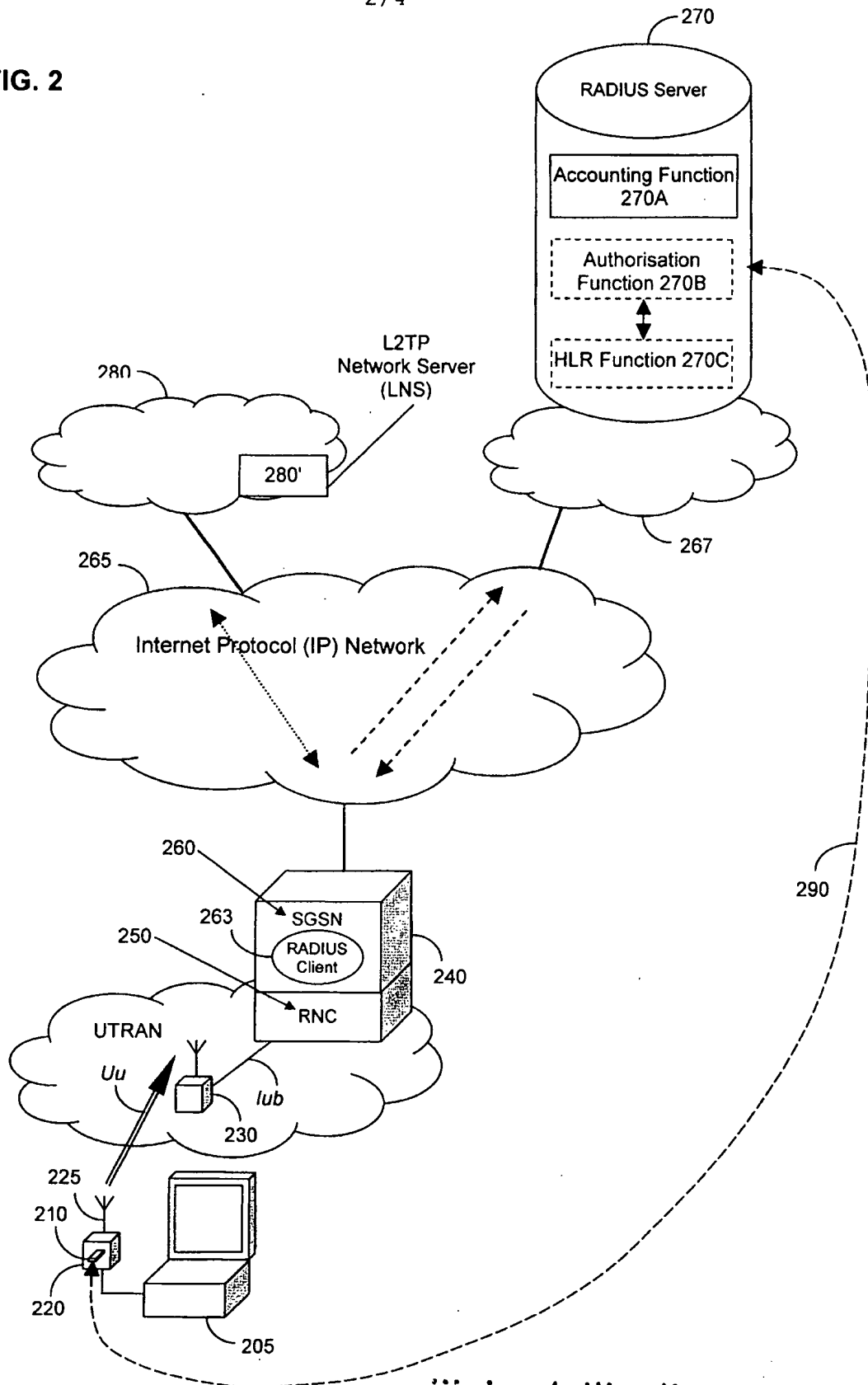


FIG. 1
Prior Art

FIG. 2



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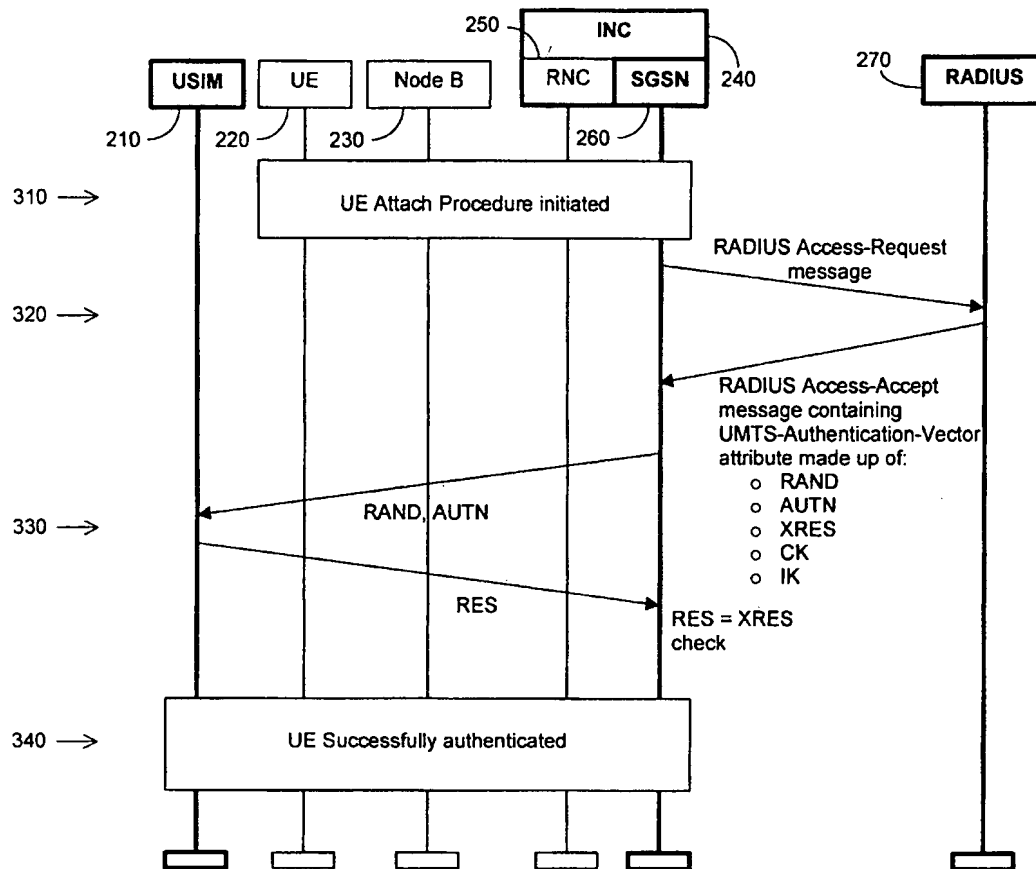


FIG. 3

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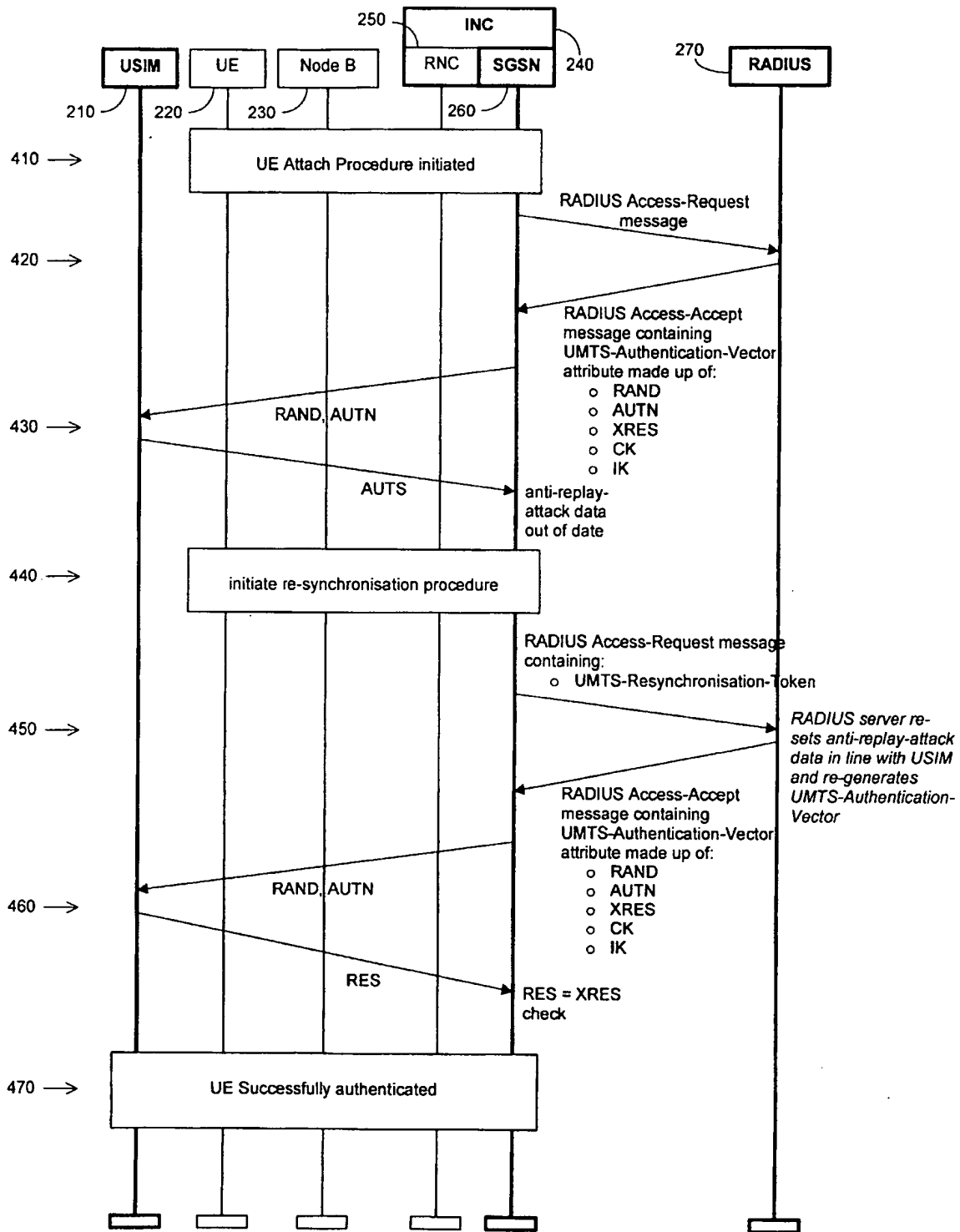


FIG. 4

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SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR USE OF INTERNET AUTHENTICATION
TECHNOLOGY TO PROVIDE UMTS AUTHENTICATION

5 Field of the Invention

This invention relates to Wireless Internet Access systems, and in particular those based on UMTS 3G (Universal Mobile Telecommunication System 3rd Generation)
10 mobile standards.

Background of the Invention

15 The UMTS standards describe a particular method by which an end-user's piece of equipment (UE) is authenticated and also the mechanism by which the UE authenticates the network (to prevent it connecting to bogus base stations). These require particular signalling from the
20 SGSN (Serving General Packet Radio Service Support Node) element to a UMTS HLR/AuC (Home Location Register / Authentication Centre). This is covered in the following standards documents:

- 25 [1] TS 33.102 - 3rd Generation Partnership Project; Technical Specification Group Services and System Aspects; 3G Security; Security Architecture; (Release 1999), and
- 30 [2] TS 24.008 - 3rd Generation Partnership Project; Technical Specification Group Core Network;

Mobile radio interface layer 3 specification;
Core Network Protocols - Stage 3; (Release
1999).

- 5 The standards also recommend an algorithm set for such
authentication functions:

- [3] TS 35.205 - 3rd Generation Partnership Project;
Technical Specification Group Services and
10 System Aspects; 3G Security; Specification of
the MILENAGE Algorithm Set: An example
algorithm set for the 3GPP authentication and
key generation functions f1, f1*, f2, f3, f4,
f5 and f5*; Document 1: General (Release 4),
15 and
[4] TS 35.206 - 3rd Generation Partnership Project;
Technical Specification Group Services and
System Aspects; 3G Security; Specification of
the MILENAGE Algorithm Set: An example
20 algorithm set for the 3GPP authentication and
key generation functions f1, f1*, f2, f3, f4,
f5 and f5*; Document 2: Algorithm Specification
(Release 4).

- 25 However, this known approach has the disadvantage(s) that
due to the complexity of the existing standards and the
relatively small market for such elements it is expensive
to implement, and generally based on bespoke software,
and in some cases bespoke hardware.

30

From patent publication no. WO 02/11467 there is known
use of RADIUS (Remote Authentication Dial-In User
Service) and associated protocols to authenticate network
access for fixed end users and for end users who roam in
5 a wireless system. RADIUS is standardized by the IETF
(Internet Engineering Task Force) in the document:

[5] RFC 2865 - Remote Authentication Dial In User
Service.

10 The standards documents [1]-[5] referred to above are
hereby incorporated herein by reference.

However, this known use of RADIUS supports authentication
for end users using UE associated with a computer such as
15 a PC (Personal Computer). It does not facilitate support
of USIM (UMTS Subscriber Intity Module) cards in UE.

A need therefore exists for use of internet
authentication technology to provide UMTS authentication
20 services related to USIMs wherein the abovementioned
disadvantage(s) may be alleviated.

Statement of Invention

25

In accordance with the present invention there is
provided a system and a method for use of internet
authentication technology to provide UMTS authentication
as claimed in claim 1 and claim 15 respectively.

30

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Brief Description of the Drawings

One system and method use of internet authentication technology to provide UMTS authentication services
5 related to UMTS SIM cards (USIMs) incorporating the present invention will now be described, by way of example only, with reference to the accompanying drawing(s), in which:

10 FIG. 1 shows a block schematic diagram illustrating signal sequencing in a prior art system to authenticate a user;

FIG. 2 shows a block schematic diagram of a UTRAN
15 Internet system illustrating the present invention;

FIG. 3 shows a block schematic diagram illustrating signal sequencing during normal authentication process in the system of FIG. 2; and

20 FIG. 4 shows a block schematic diagram illustrating signal sequencing during anti-replay data synchronisation process in the system of FIG. 2.

25

Description of Preferred Embodiment(s)

The UMTS standards describe a particular method by which an end-user's piece of equipment (UE) is authenticated
30 and also the mechanism by which the UE authenticates the network (to prevent it connecting to bogus base

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stations). These require particular signalling from the
SGSN element to a UMTS Home Location Register /
Authentication Centre (HLR/AuC). This is covered in the
standards documents [1], [2], [3] & [4] referred to
5 above.

As shown in FIG. 1, the method of the UMTS standards
utilises the network elements USIM 110, UE 120, Node B
130, RNC 140, SGSN 150, HLR 160 and AuC 170. The
10 authentication-related signalling effectively occurs
between the USIM 110, SGSN 150 and AuC 170.

The AuC 160 generates a set of authentication and keying
material, called an Authentication Vector; sets of
15 Authentication Vectors are sent to the SGSN 150 by the
AuC 170, at the request of the SGSN.

The authentication of a UE 120 occurs when it 'attaches'
to the network:
20 On an attempted network attach from a UE 120, the SGSN
150 selects an existing Authentication Vector, or
requests fresh Authentication Vectors from the AuC 170.
The SGSN then supplies the random challenge value (RAND)
and the Authentication Token (AUTN) values from the
25 Authentication Vector to the USIM 110.

The USIM uses a shared secret value (shared with the AuC)
referred to as K, plus any other parameters demanded by
the authentication algorithm (the UMTS standards supply
30 an example algorithm called MILENAGE, which has the
values OP - Operator Variant Configuration Field - and

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AMF - Authentication Management Field) to authenticate the network by validating the AUTN value it received. The authentication algorithm also includes a scheme to prevent replay-attacks (where a sequence of authentication messages is recorded, then re-played at a later time, in order to gain un-authorized access to a service) based on synchronised changing values in the AuC to the USIM (in the MILENAGE algorithm this is achieved using a changing sequence number shared between USIM and AuC, referred to as SQN).

If the USIM authenticates the network successfully, it generates an authentication result value (RES) and sends it back to the SGSN.

The SGSN compares RES against XRES and if they match authentication completes and the UE is allowed onto the network.

When the USIM authenticates the network, it can detect out-of-synchronisation anti-replay-attack data between it and the AuC - in this case a re-synchronisation procedure is executed between the USIM and AuC and the authentication procedure is then re-executed.

As will be described in greater detail below, in its preferred embodiment the present invention is based on an Internet technology-based authentication server, using a commercial RADIUS authentication server platform, that implements the procedures such that:

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- the SGSN function within an Integrated Network Controller (INC - comprising RNC and SGSN functionality) can obtain the required authentication and keying material to authenticate a
5 UE containing a USIM; and
- the network authentication function within the USIM can authenticate the INC.

As described in the present applicant's co-pending patent
10 application no. US 09-432,824 (published in equivalent form as EP 1098539) and co-pending patent application no. GB 0114813.9, the contents of which applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference, a combined RNC/SGSN may be supported in a single network element.
15 In this configuration the function of the HLR and AuC can be replaced with a RADIUS based Internet authentication server, as described in the present applicant's co-pending patent application no. US 09-626,700 (published in equivalent form as WO 02/11467), the content of which
20 is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

The present invention is based on the realisation by the inventors that the earlier-described use of RADIUS to authenticate the UE for wireless access, can be extended
25 by extensive modification of the signalling procedures to support the use of USIM cards in the UE. The signalling required to implement this in detail below.

The RADIUS protocol allows for vendor-specific extensions
30 to messages. Commercial RADIUS server software also supports the addition of software functionality ('plug-

in') to process/create RADIUS messages, including attributes added as extensions to the RADIUS protocol. The present invention is based on the realisation by the inventors that the functionality of the UMTS AuC, and the
5 associated signalling with the SGSN, can be replaced by extensions to the RADIUS protocol and a software 'plug-in' on the RADIUS server.

Referring now to FIG. 2, a wireless access user of the
10 Internet access system has a PC (Personal Computer) 205 and UMTS user equipment (UE) 220 containing a USIM card 210. The UE has a directly attached antenna 225 and is connected by typical wired data connection such as RS232, USB or Ethernet to the PC 205. The UE 220 and USIM 210
15 are together commonly termed a mobile terminal, operating in conjunction with the associated PC 205 (which is commonly termed terminal equipment).

The UE 220 communicates over a wireless link *Uu* with a
20 base station or Node B 230 in an access network domain of a UTRAN netowrk. The Node B 230 communicates over a link *Iub* with an integrated network controller (INC) 240. As discussed above, the INC 240 includes an RNC (Radio Network Controller) 250, which controls and allocates the
25 radio network resources and provides reliable delivery of user traffic between the Node B 230 and the UE 220, and an SGSN (Serving General Packet Radio Service Support Node) 260, which provides session control. The SGSN 260 incorporates a RADIUS element designated RADIUS client
30 263 to provide authentication and other functions, as will be described in greater detail below.

The INC 240 is connected to an Internet protocol network 265 and then to a UMTS access network operator 267, having a RADIUS server 270. The RADIUS server 270
5 incorporates RADIUS Accounting Functions 270A, and Authentication Functions 270B and HLR Functions 270C (these functions are shown in dashed line in FIG. 2 because, as will be described in greater detail below, the functionality is provided in software in the RADIUS
10 Server, rather than by provision of a dedicated AuC and HLR as previously known). The RADIUS server 270 is the server for both authentication and accounting functions. Thus, after authentication normally the user would communicate via the network 265 with target Internet
15 service provider 280 through its Layer 2 Tunneling Protocol Network Server LNS 280'.

As will be explained in greater detail below, a link 290 is effectively established between the USIM 210 and
20 authentication functionality 270B within the RADIUS server 270, allowing authentication of the USIM 210 without requiring a dedicated authentication centre and a dedicated home location register.

25 The RADIUS Server 270:

- Is provisioned with the IMSI-derived User-Name derived from the numeric IMSI identifier within the USIM (e.g., for an IMSI value of 234151234567890 the RADIUS User-Name attribute might be
30 "234151234567890_attach") and also the set of security parameters required to support generation

of the various parts of a UMTS Authentication Vector.

- Has had its RADIUS attribute dictionary extended, to include a 'UMTS-Authentication-Vector' attribute, containing RAND, AUTN, CK, IK and XRES with the same functionality (size in bits) as the values defined in UMTS standards document [3] referred to above.
- Has its RADIUS attribute dictionary extended, to include a 'UMTS-Resynchronisation-Token' attribute, containing a value with the same definition as the AUTS parameter described in UMTS standards document [3] referred to above.
- Has a software plug-in that supports generation of a UMTS-Authentication-Vector RADIUS attribute, based on the provisioned security parameters and the dynamic anti-replay parameters.
- Has a software plug-in that supports re-synchronisation of the dynamic anti-replay parameters with the USIM, on reception of a UMTS-Resynchronisation-Token attribute.

Referring now also to FIG. 3, the normal authentication process is as follows:

- 310 - The UE 220 initiates the attach procedure.
- 320 - The SGSN module 260 within the INC 240 requests a single Authentication vector, via a RADIUS Access-Request message; the RADIUS User-Name attribute (see the IETF standards document [5] referred to above) contains a RADIUS user ID

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derived from the numeric IMSI identifier within
the USIM (e.g., for the IMSI value
"0123456789012345" the User-Name attribute
would contain the value:
5 "0123456789012345_attach").

The RADIUS server plug-in derives a UMTS-
Authentication-Vector attribute (made up of:
RAND, AUTN, XRES, CK and IK values) based on
10 the provisioned information and the dynamic
anti-replay-attack information. The attribute
is returned to the SGSN module 260 within the
INC 240 in an Access-Accept RADIUS message.

15 330 - The USIM 210 authenticates the network, using
RAND and AUTN values received from the SGSN,
then generates an authentication result value
(RES) and sends it back to the SGSN module 260
within the INC 240.

20
340 - The SGSN module 260 within the INC 240 compares
RES against XRES and if they match
authentication completes and the UE 220 is
allowed onto the network.

25
The following table describes how the RADIUS Access-
Request message and the RADIUS Access-Accept message can
be constructed:

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Message	Contained Attribute	Type / Value	Notes
Access-Request	User-Name	Octet string	IMSI from SIM card with "_attach" appended to it
	User-Password	Octet string	Default value inserted by INC
	NAS-IP-Address	IP Address	
	User-Name-Type	Enumerated value	Identifies whether the User-Name value represents an IMSI
Access-Accept	Vendor-Specific (UMTS-Authentication-Vector)	Octet String	72-76 Byte concatenation of authentication material as defined in 3GPP specifications

The Octet String of the RADIUS Access-Accept message is constructed as shown in the following table:

Octets			
0	1	2	3
Type	Length	Vendor-ID	
Vendor-ID (continued)		Manuf.-Type	Manuf.-Length
RAND (128 bit)			
CK (128 bit)			
IK (128 bit)			
AUTN (128 bit)			
XRES (64-128 bit)			

5

The 'Type' field has a vendor-specific value (e.g., 26).

The 'Length' field has a typical value of 80.

The 'Vendor-ID' field has the vendor's IANA-assigned value (e.g., 5586).

- 10 The 'Manuf.-Type' (Manufacturer-Type) field has the UMTS-Authentication-Vector value of 14.

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The 'Manuf.-Length' field has a value in the range 74 - 78.

The Value field (RAND, CK, IK, AUTN and XRES) is 72 - 76 octets of concatenated authentication material to be used
5 by the INC in Access Authentication, challenge and ciphering.

Referring now also to FIG. 4, the anti-replay data synchronisation process is as follows:

10

410 - The UE 220 initiates the attach procedure.

15

420 - The SGSN module 260 within the INC 240 requests a single Authentication vector, via a RADIUS Access-Request message; the RADIUS User-Name attribute (see the IETF standards document [5] referred to above) contains a RADIUS user ID derived from the numeric IMSI identifier within the USIM (e.g., for an IMSI value of
20 234151234567890 the RADIUS User-Name attribute might be "234151234567890_attach").

25

The RADIUS server plug-in derives a UMTS-Authentication-Vector attribute (made up of: RAND, AUTN, XRES, CK and IK values) based on the provisioned information and the dynamic anti-replay-attack information. The attribute is returned to the SGSN module 260 within the INC 240 in an Access-Accept RADIUS message.

30

- 430 - The USIM 210 authenticates the network, using
RAND and AUTN values received from the SGSN
260, and it detects that the anti-replay-attack
data is out of synchronisation, but all other
5 data is correct. The USIM 210 sends a message
to the SGSN 260 containing the value AUTS (see
the UMTS standards document [2] referred to
above), signifying that the anti-replay attack
data is out of date.
- 10
- 440 - In this case the USIM initiates the re-
synchronisation procedure.
- 450 - The SGSN module 260 within the INC 240 requests
15 a single Authentication vector, via a RADIUS
Access-Request message; this message also
includes the UMTS AUTS value in a UMTS-
Resynchronisation-Token RADIUS attribute, which
contains a hidden version of its anti-replay-
20 attack information from the USIM.
- The RADIUS server plug-in re-synchronises the
anti-replay attack information, then derives a
UMTS-Authentication-Vector attribute based on
25 the provisioned information and the now back-
in-sync dynamic anti-replay information. The
UMTS-Authentication-Vector attribute is
returned to the SGSN module 260 within the INC
240 in an Access-Accept RADIUS message.
- 30

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460 - The USIM authenticates the network, using RAND
and AUTN values received from the SGSN 260,
then generates an authentication result value
(RES) and sends it back to the SGSN module
5 within the INC.

470 - The SGSN module within the INC compares RES
against XRES and if they match authentication
completes and the UE is allowed onto the
10 network.

The message sent from the USIM 210 to the SGSN 260 at
step 430 above, signifying that the anti-replat-attack
data is out of date, is constructed as shown in the
15 following table:

Octets			
0	1	2	3
Type	Length	Vendor-ID	
Vendor-ID (continued)		Manuf.-Type	Manuf.-Length
AUTS (112 bit)			

The 'Type' field has a vendor-specific value (e.g., 26).
The 'Length' field has a typical value of 22.
20 The 'Vendor-ID' field has the vendor's IANA-assigned
value (e.g., 5586).

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The 'Type' field has the UMTS-Resynchronisation-Token value of 15.

The 'Manuf.-Length' field has a value of 16.

The Value field (AUTS) is 14 octets of concatenated
5 authentication material to be used by the RADIUS server
270 in USIM sequence number resynchronisation.

It will be understood that by extending the signalling
procedures as described above, RADIUS may be used to
10 authenticate a USIM card in a UE for wireless access in a
UMTS system, by effectively establishing a link between
the USIM and authentication functionality within the
RADIUS server (as shown by the link 290 in FIG. 2)
without requiring a dedicated authentication centre (and
15 a dedicated home location register).

It will be appreciated that the method described above
for use of internet authentication technology to provide
UMTS authentication may be carried out in software
20 running on one or more processors (not shown) in the
RADIUS server 270, the SGSN module 260 and the PC
carrying the USIM 210, and that the software may be
provided as a computer program element carried on any
suitable data carrier (also not shown) such as a magnetic
25 or optical computer disc.

It will be understood that the use of internet
authentication technology to provide UMTS authentication
services related to UMTS SIM cards (USIMs) described
30 above provides the following advantages:

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- it is substantially cheaper than prior art solutions, because
- it is based largely on existing off-the-shelf Internet access authentication technology, modified
5 (conveniently in software in the USIM, SGSN and/or RADIUS server) to this purpose.

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Claims

1. A system for use of internet authentication technology to provide UMTS authentication, the system
5 comprising:
Serving GPRS Support Node (SGSN) means in a UMTS network; and
RADIUS server means,
the SGSN means and the RADIUS Server means being adapted
10 to support signalling therebetween whereby authentication of a User Subscriber Identity Module (USIM) may be performed in the RADIUS Server means.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein the SGSN means is
15 integrated with Radio Network Controller (RNC) means in Integrated Network Controller (INC) means.
3. The system of claim 1 or 2 wherein the UMTS network comprises a UMTS Terrstrial Radio Access Network (UTRAN).
20
4. The system of any preceding claim wherein the SGSN means is adapted to send an Access-Request RADIUS message to request a UMTS Authentication Vector from the RADIUS server means.
25
5. The system of any preceding claim wherein the RADIUS Server means is adapted to generate authentication and keying material so as to authenticate a USIM within a UMTS UE, according to UMTS standards.
30

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6. The system of claim 5 wherein the RADIUS Server means is adapted to implement the MILENAGE algorithm.
7. The system of claim 5 or 6 wherein the RADIUS Server means is adapted to generate, using anti-replay-attack dynamic data, a UMTS Authentication Vector, for use by the SGSN means.
8. The system of claim 5 when dependent on claim 4 wherein the RADIUS Server means is adapted to support dynamic sequence number (SQN).
9. The system of any preceding claim wherein the RADIUS Server means is adapted to generate a UMTS Authentication Vector in a RADIUS attribute within an Access-Accept RADIUS message for sending to the SGSN means.
10. The system of any preceding claim wherein the SGSN means is adapted to receive a UMTS Authentication Vector in a RADIUS Access-Accept message.
11. The system of any preceding claim wherein the SGSN means is adapted to send information to re-synchronise anti-replay-attack information within the USIM with the RADIUS Server means.
12. The system of claim 11 when dependent on claim 4 wherein SGSN means is adapted to send a UMTS-Resynchronisation-Token attribute in the Access-Request RADIUS message.

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13. The system of claim 12 wherein the RADIUS Server means is adapted to reset anti-replay-attack dynamic data in-line with the USIM in response to the data received in the UMTS-Resynchronisation-Token.

5

14. The system of claim 13 wherein the RADIUS Server means is adapted to implement the MILENAGE algorithm.

15. A method for use of internet authentication technology to provide UMTS authentication, the method comprising:

5 providing Serving GPRS Support Node (SGSN) means in a UMTS network; and

providing RADIUS server means, signalling between the SGSN means and the RADIUS Server means so that authentication of a User Subscriber Identity Module (USIM) is performed in the RADIUS Server
10 means.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein the SGSN means is integrated with Radio Network Controller (RNC) means in Integrated Network Controller (INC) means.

15

17. The method of claim 15 or 16 wherein the UMTS network comprises a UMTS Terrestrial Radio Access Network (UTRAN).

20 18. The method of any one of claims 15-17 wherein the SGSN means sends an Access-Request RADIUS message to request a UMTS Authentication Vector from the RADIUS server means.

25 19. The method of any one of claims 15-18 wherein the RADIUS Server means generate authentication and keying material so as to authenticate a USIM within a UMTS UE, according to UMTS standards.

30 20. The method of claim 19 wherein the RADIUS Server means implements the MILENAGE algorithm.

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21. The method of claim 19 or 20 wherein the RADIUS
Server means generates, using anti-replay-attack dynamic
data, a UMTS Authentication Vector and sends the it to
5 the SGSN means.

22. The method of claim 19 when dependent on claim 18
wherein the RADIUS Server means supports dynamic sequence
number (SQN).

10

23. The method of any one of claims 15-22 wherein the
RADIUS Server means generates a UMTS Authentication
Vector in a RADIUS attribute within an Access-Accept
RADIUS message and sends it to the SGSN means.

15

24. The method of any one of claims 15-23 wherein the
SGSN means receive a UMTS Authentication Vector in a
RADIUS Access-Accept message.

20 25. The method of any one of claims 15-24 wherein the
SGSN means sends information to re-synchronise anti-
replay-attack information within the USIM with the RADIUS
Server means.

25 26. The method of claim 25 when dependent on claim 18
wherein the SGSN means sends a UMTS-Resynchronisation-
Token attribute in the Access-Request RADIUS message.

27. The method of claim 26 wherein the RADIUS Server
30 means resets anti-replay-attack dynamic data in-line with

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the USIM in response to the data received in the UMTS-Resynchronisation-Token.

28. The method of claim 27 wherein the RADIUS Server
5 means implement the MILENAGE algorithm.

29. A RADIUS Server adapted to perform the method of any one of claims 15-28.

10 30. A SGSN adapted to perform the method of any one of claims 15-28.

31. A computer program element comprising computer program means for performing the method of any one of
15 claims 15-28.

32. A system, for use of internet authentication technology to provide UMTS authentication, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to FIGS. 2-4 of
20 the accompanying drawings.

33. A RADIUS Server, for use of internet authentication technology to provide UMTS authentication, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to FIGS. 2-4 of
25 the accompanying drawings.

34. A SGSN, for use of internet authentication technology to provide UMTS authentication, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to FIGS. 2-4 of
30 the accompanying drawings.

35. A method, for session control in a wireless communication network, substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to FIGS. 2-4 of the accompanying drawings.

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Application No: GB 0223311.2
Claims searched: 1-35

Examiner: Hannah Sylvester
Date of search: 31 March 2003

Patents Act 1977 : Search Report under Section 17

Documents considered to be relevant:

Category	Relevant to claims	Identity of document and passage or figure of particular relevance
A	-	GB2369273A (IPWIRELESS)
A	-	WO2002/11467A2 (IPWIRELESS)

Categories:

X Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
& Member of the same patent family	E Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

Field of Search:

Search of GB, EP, WO & US patent documents classified in the following areas of the UKC^V:

H4L

Worldwide search of patent documents classified in the following areas of the IPC⁷:

H04Q

The following online and other databases have been used in the preparation of this search report:

WPI EPODOC PAJ